

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A mode indicator for use with a transceiver module, the mode indicator comprising:
  - 5 a colored plastic button having an engagement feature configured for attachment to a corresponding transceiver module engagement feature.
- 10 2. The mode indicator of claim 1, wherein the molded plastic button is shaped to form at least a portion of an input/output receptacle of the transceiver module.
- 15 3. The mode indicator of claim 2, wherein the molded plastic button forms a common wall between two adjacent input/output receptacles.
- 20 4. The mode indicator of claim 1, wherein the button engagement feature comprises a recessed area within the button and the transceiver module engagement feature comprises a projection extending from the module, wherein the recessed area of the button is shaped to receive the projection of the module.
- 25 5. The mode indicator of claim 1, wherein the button engagement feature comprises a projection extending from the button and the transceiver module engagement feature comprises a recessed area within the module, wherein the recessed area of the module is shaped to receive the projection of the button.
- 30 6. The mode indicator of claim 1, wherein the button forms at least a portion of an input/output receptacle of the transceiver module.
7. The mode indicator of claim 1, wherein the button is secured to the transceiver module by press fit or by an adhesive.
8. A transceiver module comprising:

a housing having an engagement feature adjacent a front face of the housing;  
a colored mode indicator attached to the engagement feature of the housing.

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9. The transceiver module of claim 8, wherein the colored mode indicator is visible from a top and front of the transceiver module.

10. The transceiver module of claim 8, wherein the transceiver module is for insertion within a cage having a cage latch that retains the transceiver module in the cage, the transceiver module further comprising:

a release mechanism coupled to the housing to release the transceiver module from the cage;

wherein the colored mode indicator is separate from the release mechanism.

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11. The transceiver module of claim 8, wherein the engagement feature adjacent the front face of the housing is a projection extending toward the front face, and wherein the projection is received in a recessed portion of the colored mode indicator.

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12. The transceiver module of claim 8, wherein the engagement feature adjacent the front face of the housing is a recessed portion, and wherein the recessed portion receives a projection extending from the colored mode indicator.

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13. The transceiver of claim 8, further comprising an input/output receptacle in the housing, wherein the colored mode indicator forms at least a portion of the input/output receptacle.

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14. The transceiver of claim 13, further comprising two adjacent input/output receptacles in the housing, wherein the colored mode indicator forms a common wall between the adjacent input/output receptacles.
- 5 15. The transceiver of claim 8, wherein the housing formed of a metal and the colored mode indicator is formed of a plastic material.
16. The transceiver of claim 8, wherein the colored mode indicator is secured to the housing by press fit.
- 10 17. The transceiver of claim 8, wherein the colored mode indicator is secured to the housing by an adhesive.
18. A data transmission system comprising:
- 15 a printed circuit board;  
a cage structure fixed to the printed circuit board, the cage structure having an opening and a latch adjacent the opening;  
a transceiver module pluggable into the opening of the cage structure, wherein the transceiver module is retained within the cage by the latch and wherein the transceiver module is removable from the cage by deflecting the latch with a release mechanism; and
- 20 a colored mode indicator attached to the transceiver module, wherein the colored mode indicator is separate from the release mechanism.
- 25 19. The data transmission system of claim 18, further comprising an input/output receptacle in the transceiver module, wherein the colored mode indicator forms at least a portion of the input/output receptacle.
20. The data transmission system of claim 18, wherein the transceiver module has a housing formed of a metal and the colored mode indicator is
- 30 formed of a plastic material and attached to the housing.